



In Reply Refer To:
0000(P)
CA-680.00

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311
www.ca.blm.gov/barstow



Illegal Use Prompts Temporary Emergency Closure of Sawtooth Campground to Unlicensed (Green Sticker) Off-Road Vehicles

The Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Field Manager, today issued an emergency temporary closure on public lands in the recently upgraded Sawtooth Canyon Campground and surrounding public lands due to increasing non-compliance issues of greensticker vehicles. This temporary closure order shall go into effect immediately and shall be in effect for two years or until the adoption of the updated West Mojave Plan and Route Network scheduled for 2013. The closure applies to all greensticker uses on the access route to Sawtooth Canyon and offloading or use on the trails and lands within and surrounding Sawtooth Canyon Campground. This closure does not affect non-motorized uses of the campgrounds, motorized use of the access route to vehicles that are street-legal in the State of California, or carrying of greensticker vehicles within vehicles or trailers that are not off-loaded at the campground. The affected public lands are designated as limited for motorized use, which means that motorized vehicle use must occur by licensed motor vehicles and is limited to the current designated route network.

The Sawtooth Campground is a popular campground for public land users interested in various recreational activities, including rock climbing, wildlife viewing (especially bighorn sheep, bird-watching, and various small reptiles), hiking, and licensed vehicle touring. Some day users of the Stoddard OHV Open Area to the north enjoy it as a quieter alternative to camping in the OHV area, and carry their OHVs on a trailer. During the days, they can drive their licensed vehicle to staging areas within Stoddard OHV Area where they off-load their greensticker vehicles from their vehicle or a licensed trailer for riding in the open area.

Some motorists have been using the Sawtooth Campground as an illegal staging area, off-loading and driving their greensticker vehicles directly from the Sawtooth Campground locally or north across private lands to access the Stoddard OHV Area. Riders may have dated maps or disregard the signs and maps indicating the limitations of the current route network. This issue must be addressed to assure compliance with the West Mojave Plan interim route network, pending issuance of the updated West Mojave Plan and route network.

The legal description for this closure is: The following routes of travel are closed across public land on route SV315 from State Highway 247 West through T7N, R1W, SBM 15,22,28,27.

The following routes of travel are restricted to street legal vehicles only across public land: SV6440 from State Route 247 West through T7N, R1W, SBM Section 22. 21. 28. 27, SV 7316 off of SV6640 T7N, R1W Section 28. SV 7317 off of SV7315 T7N, R1W, SBM Section 28 SV 7317A off of SV 7317 T7N, R1W, SBM Section 28, SV 7314 between SV 6640 and SV 7315 T7N, R1E, SBM Section 28, SV 7315A small spur off of SV 7315 T7N, R1W, SBM Section 27, 28 within the San Bernardino Base Meridian.

A map of the closure area and routes is attached to this notice and is posted on the Barstow BLM website at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow.html>

Temporary closure to greensticker vehicles and compliance with the emergency closure is governed by 43 CFR 8341.2. Anyone violating the temporary closure may be fined up to \$1,000, receive up to one year in jail or both.

Contact Larry Blaine of the Barstow Field Office staff at (760) 252-6040 for additional information.

Roxie C. Trost
Field Manager
Barstow Field Office